

REMARKS

Claims remaining in the present patent application are numbered 20-24 and 47-54. The rejections and comments of the Examiner set forth in the Office Action dated September 10, 2002 have been carefully considered by the Applicants. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider and allow the remaining claims.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

The present Office Action rejected Claims 20-24 and 47-54 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,894,188 to Chakvorty et al. in view of EP 731507 A1 to Takayama. Applicants have reviewed the above-cited references and respectfully submit that the present invention as recited in Claims 20-24 and 47-54 as amended is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Chakvorty et al. taken alone or in combination with Takayama.

Applicants respectfully point out that Independent Claims 20 and 47, as amended, of the present invention recite:

A multilayer electrode for a flat panel display device, said multilayer electrode comprising:

a metal alloy layer, wherein said metal alloy layer includes neodymium having a concentration of between greater than three atomic percent and six atomic percent . . . (Emphasis Added)

The present invention as claimed in Independent Claims 20 and 47, as amended, pertains to a multilayer electrode comprising a metal alloy layer. Applicants respectfully submit that Chakvorty et al. taken alone or in combination with Takayama do not comprise nor suggest a metal alloy layer, in a multilayer electrode, that is comprised of neodymium having a concentration of between greater than three atomic percent and six atomic percent (see Specification, page 37, lines 1 and 2).

Instead, the Chakvorty et al. reference pertains to a cathodic structure in a flat panel display which includes a row metal comprised of aluminum that is not a metal alloy. The Takayama reference pertains to an electrode line material used in liquid crystal display comprising an aluminum alloy. The Takayama reference does disclose a conductor line material that comprises at least one element selected from a group consisting of rare-earth elements, one of which could be neodymium. However, as a further limitation, the Takayama reference discloses the quantity of the rare-earth elements, including neodymium, at being up to three atomic percent.

Even if the teachings of Chakvorty et al. were combined with the Takayama reference to suggest a metal alloy layer, they do not anticipate nor suggest a "metal alloy layer that includes neodymium having a concentration of between greater than three atomic percent and six atomic percent," of the

presently claimed invention. While neodymium is a rare-earth metal, the present invention, as claimed in Independent Claims 20 and 47, as amended, have concentrations of neodymium that are greater than the concentrations disclosed in Takayama.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Independent Claim 20, as amended, overcomes the Examiner's basis for rejection, and as such Claims 21-24 which depend on Independent Claim 20 are also in a condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Independent Claim 47, as amended, overcomes the Examiner's basis for rejection, and as such Claims 48-54 which depend on Independent Claim 47 are also in a condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

CONCLUSION

In light of the facts and arguments presented herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected Claims.


Based on the arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 20-24 and Claims 47-54 overcome the rejections of record. Therefore, Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these Claims.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned, "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made."

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,
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ATTACHMENT

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claims as indicated below including substituting clean versions for pending claims with the same number.

20. (Amended) A multilayer electrode for a flat panel display device, said multilayer electrode comprising:

a metal alloy layer, wherein said metal alloy layer includes neodymium having a concentration of between greater than three atomic percent and six atomic percent; and

a protective layer disposed above said metal alloy layer to form a multilayer stack, said multilayer stack etched to form said multilayer electrode.

47. (Amended) A multilayer electrode for a flat panel display device, said multilayer electrode comprising:

a metal alloy layer, wherein said metal alloy layer includes neodymium having a concentration of between greater than three atomic percent and six atomic percent;

a barrier layer disposed above said metal alloy layer;
and

a protective layer disposed above said metal alloy layer to form a multilayer stack, said multilayer stack etched to form said multilayer electrode.